

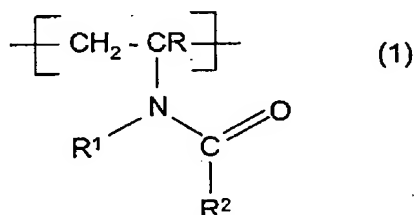
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In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of concentrates in liquid or liquid-disperse form comprising

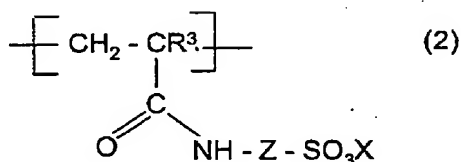
I) 10 to 80% by weight of a copolymer comprising

a) 1 to 50% by weight of a repeat structural unit of the formula (1)



wherein R, R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, a linear or branched alkyl group having in each case 1 to 30 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkenyl group having in each case 2 to 30 carbon atoms, or R¹ and R² together are a C₂-C₆-alkylene group,

b) 49.99 to 98.99% by weight of the repeat structural unit of the formula (2)



in which R³ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, Z is C₁-C₆-alkylene and X is an ammonium, alkali metal or alkaline earth metal ion, and

c) 0.01 to 8% by weight of crosslinking structures formed from monomers with at least two olefinic double bonds,

II) 20 to 90% by weight of one or more emulsifiers, a solvent, solvent mixture or mixtures thereof, and

III) 0 to 30% by weight of water,

wherein the concentrate is made by a process comprising the steps of

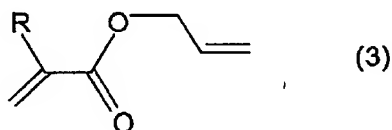
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A) free radically copolymerizing the components a), b) and c) to form a polymer in a polymerization medium, which behaves largely inertly with regard to free-radical polymerization reactions and permits the formation of high molecular weights,
B) subsequently adding a higher-boiling solvent, or solvent mixture, one or more emulsifiers and mixtures thereof to the mixture of polymer and polymerization medium, where the boiling point of the higher-boiling solvent or solvent mixture is at least 10°C higher than that of the polymerization medium used for the polymerization and
C) removing the polymerization medium without isolating the polymer via a filtration step.

2. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises 2 to 30% by weight of structural units of the formula (1), 69.5 to 97.5% by weight of structural units of the formula (2), and 0.2 to 3% by weight of crosslinking structures formed from monomers with at least two olefinic double bonds.

3. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the copolymer has crosslinking structures formed from monomers with at least two olefinic double bonds and are derived from acrylic or methacrylic allyl ester, dipropylene glycol diallyl ether, polyglycol diallyl ether, triethylene glycol divinyl ether, hydroquinone diallyl ether, tetraallyloxyethane, allyl or vinyl ethers of multifunctional alcohols, tetraethylene glycol diacrylate, triallylamine, trimethylolpropane diallyl ether, methylenebisacrylamide or divinylbenzene.

4. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the copolymer has crosslinking structures derived from monomers of the formula (3),



in which R is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

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5. (previously presented) The process in claim 1, wherein the concentrate comprises 20 to 60% by weight of the copolymer.

6. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the concentrate comprises 30 to 80% by weight of the one or more emulsifiers, solvent, solvent mixture or mixtures thereof.

7. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the concentrate comprises 0 to 10% by weight of water.

8. (previously presented) A concentrate made by a process in accordance with claim 1.

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the adding step further comprises adding water to the polymer and polymerization medium.

11. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the removing step further comprises removing the polymerization medium at pressure lower than atmospheric pressure.

12. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the removing step further comprises removing the polymerization medium at a temperature greater than room temperature.

13. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 2, wherein the structural units of the formula (I) are derived from N-vinylpyrrolidone.

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14. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 2, wherein the structural units of the formula (2) are derived from ammonium salt of 2-acrylamino-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid.

15. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the higher-boiling solvent or solvent mixture is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, ester oils, vegetable oils, silicone oils, and mixtures thereof.

16. (previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the higher-boiling solvent or solvent mixture is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon oils with linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C₇-C₄₀-carbon chains, sunflower oil, corn oil, soybean oil, rice oil, jojoba oil, babusscu oil, pumpkin oil, grapeseed oil, sesame oil, walnut oil, apricot oil, macadamia oil, avocado oil, sweet almond oil, lady's smock oil, castor oil, olive oil, peanut oil, rapeseed oil, coconut oil, beef tallow, perhydrosqualene, lanolin, purcellin oil, Guerbet alcohols having 6 to 18 carbon atoms, esters of linear (C₆-C₁₃)-fatty acids with linear (C₆-C₂₀)-fatty alcohols, esters of branched (C₆-C₁₃)-carboxylic acids with linear (C₆-C₂₀)-fatty alcohols, esters of linear (C₆-C₁₈)-fatty acids with branched alcohols, C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic monoesters and polyesters of sugars, C₁-C₃₀-monoesters and polyesters of glycerol, beeswax, paraffin wax, microwaxes, cetylstearyl alcohol; fluorinated and perfluorinated oils, monoglycerides of C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic acids, diglycerides of C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic acids, triglycerides of C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic acids, for example triglycerides of caprylic/capric acids, ethylene glycol monoesters of C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic acids, ethylene glycol diesters of C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic acids, propylene glycol monoesters of C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic acids, propylene glycol diesters of C₁-C₃₀-carboxylic acids, propoxylated and ethoxylated derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

17. (cancelled)